

Hello Senate members,

My name is Stix Newman. I am writing to you today to express my deep concerns over the HB96 Bill and any bill that restricts gender as "biological sex." I am a trans woman, I've been out and proud for six years. It has been a long, painful journey. Being trans is hard- socially, medically, spiritually and physically. But it is the best thing I've ever done. Changing my gender markers was a huge moment for me. It felt like an important step for me in my personal happiness and my journey as a woman. I did everything according to the law, filled out the forms, paid the money and went through the proper channels...only to find that now, it might be counted as a misdemeanor. I'm outraged.

This unacceptable and unfair to your trans and nonbinary constituents and encourages violence against us. Make no mistake- this does not protect anyone- it just furthers to harm us. You work to protect every citizen in Ohio- including the transgender ones. We deserve the same rights as every other Ohioan and this bill would make us second class citizens.

Trans Ohioans are under attack at every turn. All I want to do is live how I see fit. Over the last six months, my right to privacy has been taken from me; my right to equal housing and equal jobs- gone; my right to free speech- at risk. Let me be clear- trans people are not the problem and, deep down, I think you know this. We are a scapegoat for other people's prejudice and self hatred. This is not democracy- this is the demonization of a group of innocent people. We just want the chance to exist- the same as anyone else.

I implore you to stand up for your constituents- all of them. Our safety is at risk. Our rights are at risk. And this bill is nothing but violence.

Thank you.